

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Initially, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicants' domestic claim to priority and to confirm receipt of the verified English translation of Provisional Application No. 60/241,838 filed on February 4, 2004. A copy of the verified English translation is submitted herewith.

In addition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return a signed and initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 A & B form filed with Applicants' IDS on August 3, 2004.

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-6 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 17-20 of co-pending Application No. 10/221,447.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the merits of this rejection.

The Examiner has issued a provisional double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

MPEP 804.I.B. states that if the Examiner has issued a provisional double patenting rejection between two co-pending applications and the only rejection remaining in one application prior to issuing a Notice of Allowance is the provisional double patenting rejection, the Examiner should withdraw that rejection and permit the application to issue as the patent. See MPEP 804.I.B. Then, the "provisional" double patenting rejection in the other application (i.e., Application No. 10/221,447) is converted into a double patenting rejection at the time the present application issues as a patent.

Since the provisional double-patenting rejection is the only rejection set forth in this Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the provisional double patenting rejection in this application, and issue a double patenting rejection in the co-application.

Reconsideration and the allowance of claims 1-15 at an early date are respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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